

Liberal Education/Engineering Society Business Meeting Minutes
ASEE Conference, New Orleans Convention Center, Rm 254
11:30am-1pm, June 27, 2016
(Approved June 27, 2017)

2015-2016 Officers

Division Chair: Steven H. VanderLeest, Calvin College
 Division Chair-Elect: Dean Nieuwma, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Past Chair: Atsushi Akera, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Program Chair: John Brocato, Mississippi State University
 Program Chair-Elect: Shane Cotter, Union College
 Secretary/Treasurer: Genine Apidone, Case Western Reserve University
 Webmaster and Newsletter Editor: Justin Hess, IUPUI

The meeting began with Steve calling the meeting to order. 2015 LEES business meetings were approved. An update on the LEES conference program was discussed, including the 3pm Interdivisional Town Hall Meeting on the proposed changes to the ABET accreditation criteria.

1: PIC III Chair Report: Sheryl Sorby (Ohio State University)

A: LEES Conference and Membership Updates:

Division	2015 Papers Published	2016 Papers Published	Technical Sessions	Papers Published/Session	Business	Panel	Social
LEES	41	58	6	5.67	1	1	1

Membership	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016
LEES	265	272	310	329

B: Financial Updates:

Division statements are up to date through May 31, 2016 (were sent out before the conference). Details on revenues/expenses are a high priority for 2016-2017. Funds in BASS accounts should be used to benefit members.

C. Best of the PICs Paper Award went to the Community Engagement Division:

Paper 16399 "Going is not knowing: challenges in creating intercultural engineers."
 LEES should nominate a paper for best paper; there weren't a lot of submissions this year.

D. Important Announcements:

Updated officer list and division financial signature form must be submitted by July 15, 2016.
 Special projects fund: Look for a call in October. We should apply.

E. Timeline: (Please see updated Program Chairs' Kit online for exact dates)

July: Division call for papers due to ASEE
 Sept: Workshops, distinguished lectures prep
 Oct: Abstracts due
 Nov: Workshops/distinguished lecture due; abstract decisions; session requests
 Jan: Papers due
 April/May: Finalize sessions; final papers submitted

F. ABET: Comment Period

Insightful article on this topic: "We Assess What We Value," Donna Riley, LEES

G: Additional

For 2017 conference, might try a joint business meeting time for all PIC III divisions.

2. Treasurer Report: Genine Apidone

BASS account: \$1,956.79; OPR: \$321. Will meet with Douglas Black, Controller and Director, to review accounts and updates. Need to use OPR funds since they don't carry over to the next fiscal year.

3. Program Chair Report: John Brocato

58 papers were submitted. Did we have too much growth for paper submissions this year?

Maybe the Program Chair-Elect could have a more central role?

No posters were submitted. Do we want to encourage poster submissions for 2017?

There isn't much clarification for the topics and number of papers one can present. Should the Program Chair implement a policy where those who submit multiple papers only present once?

It is up to the division to accept a work-in-progress submission. We want a work-in-progress category.

Next year will be the "Year of Action on P-12." Maybe papers can be relevant to the theme?

The fine work of our program chair was recognized with a round of applause.

4. Awards Committee Chair Report: Dean Nieuwma

Committee members:

Dean Nieuwma (Committee Chair as LEES Division Chair-Elect)

Donna Riley (2014-2016)

Sarah Pfatteicher (2015-2017, but will step down after this year)

Erin Cech (2016-2018)

LEES Best Paper Award:

Stephanie Pulford and Cibele Falkenberg, both of Auburn University, for their paper, "Give Me Every Idea You Have': Building with Improvisation in Engineering Education."

Sterling Olmsted Award: Atsushi Akera (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

The Sterling Olmsted award honors those who have made distinguished contributions to the development and teaching of liberal arts in engineering education. It is the highest award given by the Liberal Education/Engineering & Society (LEES) Division of the ASEE.

The nominating committee (Dean Nieuwma, chair; Erin Cech; Sarah Pfatteicher; and Donna Riley) is pleased to present the 2016 Olmsted Award to Atsushi Akera, Associate Professor, Science and Technology Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The 2016 Olmsted Award goes to Atsushi Akera, Associate Professor of Science and Technology Studies (and my colleague) at Rensselaer for outstanding research, teaching, and service advancing historical understandings of and contemporary practices supporting the liberal education of engineers. While I've had the opportunity both to read Atsushi's meticulous scholarship on the history of engineering education reform and to observe his teaching in the interdisciplinary design program I direct, I want to draw attention this evening to that aspect of his work that everyone here tonight knows so well: His unflagging service to the LEES Division, to Union's Engineering and Liberal Education Symposium, and to the broader cause of liberal education within and across ASEE. In addition to moving through the leadership ranks of the LEES Division—tomorrow he closes out his tenure as Past Chair—Atsushi has:

- Advocated cross-divisional activities both from below and above—below through extensive lateral communication with other divisions and above by working closely with ASEE leadership to put in place structures conducive to inter and cross-divisional efforts.
- Spearheaded the remarkably successful Town Hall meetings over several years—this year on proposed changes to ABET's engineering program accreditation requirements, which was exemplary engagement and reflective of Atsushi's skills in this space. The meeting addressed squarely and fairly a contentious yet critically important decision facing all of us as engineering educators. In his characteristic style, Atsushi played a moderating role, which itself is important, but which also tends to hide the more progressive achievement of putting this issue at the top of the agenda for many ASEE participants via the Town Hall. Many of us left this year's Town Hall both energized and encouraged about the engagement of our peers around this timely issue.
- Played a central role in mediating divergent voices around ABET changes within ASEE prior to and beyond the Town Hall, including through direct engagement with ASEE leadership as well as through coordinating collaborative scholarship in response to these challenges.
- Articulated a vision for ASEE that returns the organization to its former standing as preeminent voice in engineering education policymaking, at least in the US context. His scholarship on the history of organizational transformation informs his tireless pursuit of ASEE's organizational transformation in the present in a way that benefits all of us.

The awards committee considered thoughtfully the tradeoffs around making the award to our own immediate Past Chair. We discussed the importance of casting a wide net, of identifying scholars beyond the LEES community. There were several candidates for whom a strong case was made. Ultimately, however, Atsushi rose to the top of our list, and this was due primarily to the scope and impact of his many contributions to LEES, to ASEE, and to the liberal education of engineers broadly. Congratulations, Atsushi, on an award richly deserved.

5. Division Chair Report: Steve VanderLeest

Diversity Chair Report: Donna Riley, Diversity liaison, gave Steve her report/updates (below) to report since she was not able to attend the meeting.

The Diversity Committee meets via teleconference approximately every three weeks to identify, implement, and oversee actions. It has 15 members and 14 non-voting delegates from 14 divisions, including LEES. Accomplishments over the past year have included:

- Revising and updating the Strategy & Implementation Plan for Diversity for ASEE.
- Revamping the 2016-2017 Student Essay & Video Contest with a P-12 theme in coordination with the P-12 Committee.
- Walking Toward Inclusion Footsteps Project (visible on the convention floor!).
- Maintaining the Year of Action on Diversity website (<http://diversity.asee.org>).
- Publishing a newsletter twice yearly to enhance communication from the Diversity Committee (online).
- * Administering the Best Diversity Paper Award.
- Engaging in functional partnerships with other organizations (IEEE, ASME, WEPAN, NSBE, NAMEPA, SHPE, NOGLSTP, oSTEM, AIChE, AISES, SWE).
- Continuing to facilitate panels, sessions, and LGBTQI Safe Zone Workshops.
- Designing and Staffing the ASEE Annual Conference Diversity Booth.

The budget for the Committee is \$5000, most of which goes to the conference activities like the footsteps project, t-shirts, printing materials, SafeZone supplies, etc.

Communication Across Divisions:

Judith Norback and Kay Neeley are leading this initiative. Kay reported that:

- There's a lot of talk about communication, and a lot of "reinventing of the wheel"
- However, the data collected isn't very helpful
- We need a synopsis of the communication across divisions session
- Suggestion: Affinity groups

6. Revision of LEES Division Bylaws

Proposed revisions were posted on the Division website last fall for comment. Notice of the revisions was made in multiple LEES newsletters. If a bylaw change is needed, electronic communication is sufficient. Chair will appoint someone to collect the votes.

The revisions include:

- Clarified officer roles
- Awards Committee defined
- Diversity clause added, which includes endorsement of ASEE's commitment to diversity and chair's appointment of a non-voting LEES member to the ASEE Diversity Committee

A motion was voted on and passed to approve the revisions as ready for ratification by Division.

7. ABET Updates: Atsushi Akera

ABET tried to eliminate many of the liberal education components. The latest version is better, but not much. Interdivisional Town Hall meeting on ABET changes is 6/27, 3:45pm, room 345.